

Matt Harrow's Teaching Nuggets

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Behavior Management:

Establish Expectations—

- Involve students in deciding the final outcome and the steps to get there (with your guidance)
- “Waste” lots of time teaching it and re-teaching it as necessary
- Involve specialists (PE, Library, Music, etc.)
- Have your expectations ready, but allow for student input (it will create buy-in)

Be Consistent and Positive ---

- Refer to it all the time, every single day
- Don't slack on your expectations unless you are being explicit with the students (ie why are you letting them have extra slack this time).
- Don't fall for their negotiating tactics, you are the master of the system

Differentiate ---

- Create games and challenges, even simple ones (timers work great)
- Bring your system into your curriculum
- Find moments for double points or special rewards
- Make sure you talk about it every day, but give variety and teach students to be flexible and expect the unexpected.

Individual Accountability and Group Accountability ---

Have positive and negative consequences for the group and for individual students

Be careful never to isolate students for negative behaviors

Always focus on future success instead of past failures

Have fun with it –

- Remember it is not a weapon to keep the kids in line; it should be a motivating factor.

- Small rewards along the way
- Use it as a teaching tool (if possible)
- Don't stress about theories, find what works with your group of kids
- Move toward intrinsic motivations for higher grades